AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers, respectively:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled):

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A method of determining a value of a skin characteristic, especially of a type of skin, for the application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin, the method comprising the following steps:

generating light rays by ~~means of~~ a light source;

irradiating a test sector of a skin, to which tattooing or permanent make-up is to be applied by ~~means of~~ color, with the light rays;

measuring test light rays formed in the test sector by irradiation with the light rays, by a detector ~~means~~ to generate measured electrical test light values of the test light rays;

processing the measured electrical values by an electronic processing ~~means~~ device to determine a characteristic value which is a measure of a characteristic of the skin in the test sector

and which is to be taken into account when applying permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin; and

outputting the characteristic value via an output ~~means~~ device.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein monochrome light rays of the red, green, and/or blue spectral regions are used as the light rays.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein white light rays are used as the light rays.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a skin type value indicating a type of the skin in the test sector is determined and output as the characteristic value.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a color value indicating color suitable for the skin for application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin is determined and output as the characteristic value.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein a chromaticity correction value for a corrective color indicated by the chromaticity correction value is determined as a chromaticity value and output via the output ~~means~~ device during the automatic processing of the measured test light values by the electronic processing ~~means~~ device.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein a corrective color volume statement for a volume amount of corrective color per volume amount of color is determined together with the chromaticity correction value and output via the output ~~means~~ device.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein electronic data including information on further characteristics of the skin in the test sector, especially a pH, are processed when determining [[the]] a chromaticity ~~value/chromaticity correction~~ value by the electronic processing ~~means~~ device.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein a test value determined from the measuring

light rays and characterizing blue-coloring pigmentation of the skin in the test sector is taken into account when determining [[the]] a chromaticity ~~value/chromaticity correction~~ value.

Claim 28 (Currently amendment): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein another test value determined from the measuring light rays and characterizing a property which colors the skin in the test sector orange [[is]] are taken into account when determining [[the]] a chromaticity ~~value/chromaticity correction~~ value.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein [[the]] a chromaticity ~~value/chromaticity correction~~ value in the form of an electronic chromaticity value data is used as input value for an electronic imaging system with which at least a partial representation of a living test creature for which the test sector of the skin was examined is generated automatically on an electronic display, taking into account the chromaticity ~~value/chromaticity correction~~ value.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): An apparatus for determining a characteristic value of a skin, especially of a type of skin,

for the application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin, comprising:

a light source for generating light rays;

a detector ~~means~~ for detecting test light rays which are formed by irradiation of a test sector of the skin with the light rays so as to generate respective measured electrical test light values of the test light rays in a plurality of optical spectral regions;

an electronic processing ~~means~~ device for automatic processing of the measured test light values to determine a characteristic value which is a measure of a characteristic of the skin in the test sector and which is to be taken into account when applying permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin; and

an output ~~means~~ device for outputting the characteristic value.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the electronic processing means is configured to determine, as the characteristic value, a skin type value indicating a type of the skin.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the electronic processing ~~means~~ device is configured to determine, as the characteristic value, a chromaticity value indicating color for application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the light source comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes for generating monochromatic light rays in the plurality of optical spectral regions.

Claim 34 (Currently amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the electronic processing ~~means~~ device is coupled to an arrangement for automatic color analysis for application of tattooing or permanent make-up to the skin in order to transfer the characteristic value to the assembly for automatic processing.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the arrangement comprises a screen ~~means~~ for presenting electronic image data and a ~~control means~~ controller for processing the electronic image data in consideration of the

characteristic value and for automatically adapting the characteristic value.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein a dispersion component for spectral dispersion of the measuring light rays is connected upstream of the detector ~~means~~.

Please add the following new claims 37-38 as follows:

Claim 37 (New): A method of determining a value of a skin characteristic for the application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin, the method comprising the following steps:

generating light rays having a first electronic value of an irradiation intensity by a light source;

irradiating a test sector of a skin, to which tattooing or permanent make-up is to be applied by color, with the light rays;

measuring test light rays formed in the test sector by irradiation with the light rays, by a detector to generate a second electrical value of an intensity of the test light rays;

processing the first electrical value of the irradiation intensity and the second electrical value of the intensity of the

test light rays by an electronic processing device to determine a characteristic value which is a measure of a characteristic of the skin in the test sector and which is to be taken into account when applying permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin; and

outputting the characteristic value via an output device.

Claim 38 (New): The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said step of processing includes comparing the first electrical value of the irradiation intensity and the second electrical value of the intensity of the test light rays to provide information on a pigmentation of the skin in the test sector.